

BUSINESS USE OF VANS

What is the Business Use of Vans program?

The Business Use of Vans program makes Metro commuter vans available for employees' use during the workday, providing a vehicle employees can use to attend business meetings. It also offers shuttle-type access to an employer's campus, or between multiple worksites, for people or materials.

Vanpool commuter groups that participate receive a special subsidy incentive for making vans available for use during the workday.

What are the benefits of Business Use of Vans?

To Employers:

- provides vehicle(s) to be used to transport employees or materials between multiple worksites during the workday;
- reduces or eliminates capital costs for company-owned vehicles;
- may eliminate parking shortages, by addressing the needs of employees who drive to work in order to have a vehicle to use for business-related trips during the day.

To Employees:

- provides an incentive subsidy for vanpool commuter groups;
- offers a convenient way for employees to attend meetings offsite, and to travel between multiple company locations.

How does Business Use of Vans help meet CTR goals?

The program enables employees to use transit, rideshare and other forms of alternative commuting to work, although they might normally be required to drive alone in order to have a vehicle for use during the workday.

Fewer single occupancy vehicles (SOV) travelling daily to your worksite can result in more progress in attaining, or maintaining, Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) goals for those companies affected by the CTR law.

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What are favorable conditions for Business Use of Vans?

Using vans for business trips work best when:

- employers need fleet-type vehicles to support specific business uses, such as transporting employees or materials;
- companies have multiple worksite locations;
- management is willing to support vanpool commuting at their worksites.

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Q. What are the administrative requirements for companies that take advantage of the Business Use of Vans program?

A. Employers must agree to adhere to procedures, which are stated in the Business Use Agreement supplied by Metro. Outlined in the procedures are payment schedules, the company's responsibility to commute groups, and employee liability issues. The employer must provide a contact person; for CTR-affected companies this is often the Employer Transportation Coordinator (ETC).

Q. Will King County Metro provide liability insurance for business use operations of vans?

A. King County Metro will provide liability insurance, and will (on request) conduct a review of driving records for those employees identified by the company as eligible to drive the van. Metro will also help participating companies to develop emergency response procedures.

Q. Can "Business Use of Vans" operations begin before a vanpool commute group has been formed and is operating at the worksite?

A. The program requires that at least one vanpool commute group be operating at the worksite, before this program can be implemented there.

Q. Can a commute group be required to donate its van for business use, should the company wish to being business use operations?

A. No, availability of vans for business use must be a voluntary commitment by the commute group which uses that van for commuting. The group must agree to share its van for use during the workday.